



# Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday  
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2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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## *Governor Togiola returns home after hectic trip to DC*

Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono returned to the Territory Sunday night after a hectic schedule of meetings in the nation's capital that included the 15th Meeting of the US Coral Reef Task Force, discussions on Section 936 with Congressman Faleomavaega Eni, a National Guard unit for American Samoa, Essential Air Service for the Territory. Other meetings in Washington DC included discussions for a temporary extension of tax credits with Joint Committee on Taxation and talks on the submarine optic fiber cable hook up in Fiji with the U.S. Department of Defense.

### **U.S. CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

During the meeting the governor highlighted progress of our Local Coral Reef Advisory Group in the land-based sources of pollution. This program is being developed to inform managers, the public, and politicians of the impacts of watershed-based pollution on reef communities around Tutuila Island. Togiola also reported on the Recent Research and Monitoring Efforts, where last month, scientists from the University of Hawaii and University of Miami investigated what may be one of the world's largest coral colonies -- it is a Porites (por-ry-dees) mound located off Ta'u Island. The coral is two stories tall (22 feet) and may well be over 600 years old. The governor stated "It may prove to be scientifically important, but we will at least claim bragging rights for this giant."

### **NATIONAL GUARD UNIT**

Togiola also took time to meet with General Blum, Commander of the National Guard in the Pentagon, to follow up on ASG's request to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa. General Blum was very supportive and informed the governor that he will assemble and send to American Samoa immediately an assessment team to assist Togiola in this endeavor. The governor thanked General Blum for his support and that he will look forward to receiving the assessment team in American Samoa.

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Governor Togiola Tulafono addresses the nurses of American Samoa at LBJ Hospital Chapel in Faga'alu as part of the celebration of National Nurses Week.

## **National Nurses Week: "Strength, Commitment & Compassion"**

Governor Togiola Tulafono honored American Samoa's nurses as part of the National Nurses Week celebration.

In an opening ceremony at LBJ Chapel Monday morning, May 8, 2006, Governor Togiola, on behalf of the people of American Samoa, expressed deep and sincere gratitude to the nurses of the Territory for their major contribution to the health and well-being of American Samoa.

The following is the official text of Governor Togiola's remarks to the nurse of American Samoa:

"I wish to salute all of you nurses across the Territory and offer my deepest and sincere thanks on behalf of our island community for your strength, commitment and compassion to your profession. I describe it that way because it embodies what it truly means to be a nurse today.

You need the strength to care for patients during difficult times. You need the commitment to remain caring and involved through a lifetime of dedication to your job. And you need the compassion to provide hands-on patient care performing the work of love and mercy.

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## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On May 3, 1865**, Henry Francis Bryan, American Samoa's 16th naval governor (March 17, 1925-September 9, 1927), was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**On May 3, 1869**, Warren Jay Terhune, 12th naval governor of American Samoa (June 10, 1919-November 3, 1920), was born in Midland Park, New Jersey.

**On May 3, 1906**, Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, enacted "Regulation No. 3-1906: Enlisted Men of the Navy," which exempted sailors from being arrested "on mesne process, or taken or charged in execution of any debt, unless it was contracted before his enlistment."

**On May 4, 1897**, Phelps von Rottenburg, who later changed his name to Phelps Phelps and became American Samoa's first appointed civil governor on February 23, 1951, was born in Bonn, Germany to Dr. Franz von Rottenburg and Marian Phelps von Rottenburg.

**On May 4, 1900**, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 11: Talie and Satalo," totalling 4.31 acres from "Wellmen [*sic*], Hobbs et al." for \$1,425.00.

**On May 5, 1768**, French navigator Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, aboard *La Boudense* and accompanied by *L' Etoile*, sighted the Samoan islands. Impressed by the Samoans' ship handling skills, he named the archipelago "The Navigator Islands," and they were known by that name for over a century. Bougainville compared the Samoans to the Tahitians by saying that "I do not believe these islanders are as gentle as our Cythereans. Their appearance was more savage, and they displayed far more mistrust."

**On May 5, 1898**, the U.S. Navy purchased SS *Abarenda* from an English company and commissioned her as USS *Abarenda* (AC-13). She subsequently served as the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila's first station ship until May 29, 1902, after which she served in the Atlantic Fleet and in the Asiatic Station from 1910 until 1926, after which she was sold.

**On May 5, 1939**, the minesweeper USS *Pelican* (AVP6), visited American Samoa. Philatelic covers with **"PAGO PAGO/SAMOA"** in the killer bars were postmarked aboard the ship.

**On May 7, 1951**, the second USS *Tutuila* (ARG-4) was recommissioned and assigned to the Service Force, Atlantic Fleet.

**On May 8, 1892**, the first Samoan Catholic Priest, Father Ioane Tofe, was ordained at Vaea, 'Upolu by Bishop Jean-Armand Lamaze, Vicar Apostolic of Central Oceania and Administrator of Samoa.

**On May 9, 1838**, the London Missionary Society established a church at Pago Pago, Tutuila.

**On May 9, 1942**, in Western Samoa, the U.S. Marine Corps' 7th Defense Battalion came under the control of the 3rd Marine Brigade, commanded by Major General Charles D. Barrett.

**On May 9, 1961**, a plebiscite was held in Western Samoa to determine whether the voters agreed with the 1960 constitution, and whether they agreed that Western Samoa should become independent on January 1, 1962. To the first question, 31,426 voters answered "Yes," 4,909 "No," and 1,562 "Informal." To the second question, 29,882 voted "Yes," 5,108 "No," and 2,907 "Informal." A total of 37,897 votes were cast.

**On May 9, 1962**, American Samoa's Governor, Hyrum Rex Lee approved American Samoa's new Merit System Law, following its passage by the Legislature.

## Governor Togiola returns from DC

(continued from page 1)

### ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE

After the Coral Reef Task Force meetings, the Governor also met with Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan McDermott, Deputy Administrator Robert Sturgell, and Chief of Essential Air Service and Domestic Analysis to follow up on previous discussions about cabotage issues and other transportation concerns of the governor. The meeting also examined questions relating to Essential Air Service requirements and the rights of the Territory under those regulations. The meetings were extremely informative and offered valuable information to Togiola that will be useful and fashioning the Territory's approach in fostering remedies for American Samoa's transportation issues.

### TAX CREDIT

Governor Togiola also met with the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation to follow up on previous discussions and to bring them up to date on the status of the work being done to gain a temporary extension of tax credits."While these folks do not give advice to the Governor, their willingness to share information and their insight on the workings of the Committee and the process is very valuable, and it is important to keep in touch with them when I come to Washington," said Togiola.

### SUBMARINE OPTIC FIBER CABLE

To conclude his week in Washington, Togiola met with officials of the Department of Defense (DOD) with regards to the proposed submarine fiber optic ASG is pursuing to connect American Samoa to the Southern Cross cable that lands in Fiji. The meeting was mainly to explore the possibility of any military interest in utilizing the cable if it is built and put in place. The governor and his staff provided a presentation of the proposal and the effort being put into this project. According to Togiola, the DOD staff's interest and the questions they asked were very positive and they will be very encouraging in making his decisions with regards to this project. No promises or commitments were made by the DOD staff, but the questions, comments and suggestions were very relevant and the Governor was very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. Assisting the governor in his meetings throughout the week had been Mr. Lelei Peau, Jan Lipsen, and Mr. Ed Ing.

## Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to: [tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as](mailto:tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as)

## Governor Togiola meets in DC regarding section 936

Governor Togiola Tulafono met with Congressman Faleomavaega Eni, Department of Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary - Papali'i David Cohen and Director of the Office of Insular Affairs - Nikolao Iuli Pula regarding the Internal Revenue Service-Section 936.

The meeting included U.S. congressional committee staff from the Senate Finance, U.S. House Ways and Means, U.S. Senate Energy and U.S. House Resources.

Governor Togiola said before he arrived in the nation's capital and knew anything about the meeting, he had asked the Territory's Government Liaison - Mrs. Jan Lipsen to contact American Samoa's Delegate to Congress to arrange a meeting with him.

"The purpose for my request was to find out from Faleomavaega whether or not he had time to thoroughly review the research and proposal I left with him in February, and if he would be willing to request a revenue estimate of such a proposed legislation," Governor Togiola. "When I arrived in DC on Tuesday, I was informed by Mrs. Lipsen that the response back from the Congressman's office was that the Congressman had invited several other parties to be in the meeting at 3 o'clock the same afternoon. I decided to go ahead and attend the meeting since it dealt with the issues relating to the tax credit extension request."

"I was hopeful that the Congressman was amenable to pursue both temporary measures to accommodate the canneries for the short term, together with a proposal for a permanent solution for the Territory," said Governor Togiola. "However, the Congressman was fully committed to seeking only the temporary extension of tax credit for the canneries now, than pursue a long term program for American Samoa later."

"Notwithstanding my concerns, I did announce during our last Flag Day celebration that we stand ready to support the efforts of the Congressman. I fully intend to stay focused on this issue, and will continue to pursue a long term program with the Congressman," added Governor Togiola.

"At the meeting I did express concerns that if we put all the efforts and are successful only in gaining a temporary solution applicable only to the canneries, that we may face a more difficult time coming back to seek more long term solutions for American Samoa. I am afraid that going after temporary measures only will put our development efforts at risk as we will not be able to promote American Samoa as a place to invest for two years, or may be longer, if a long term economic development solution cannot be worked out within that time," said Governor Togiola.

"I also expressed my appreciation and thanked Deputy Assistant Secretary Cohen as well as his office, and the Congressional staff that attended for their sincere interest in our dilemma, and their expressed willingness to work with us to forge a program to assist our efforts in developing a better and sustainable economy," concluded Governor Togiola.

## National Nurses Week

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It is very important to take time this week to thank all our nurses for what they do and to remind us all on just how vital the Territory's nurses are to patients, their families and our island home, and the major contribution of all of our nurses to the health and well-being of American Samoa.

I have a proud admiration for you nurses. I am delighted to see our veteran nurses still in the workforce and lending a hand to the newer nurse that are making the same commitment. You are a special breed that is hard to find. I look at our young people and wonder why they shy away from your caring and loving profession, and then I concluded that it probably is because our young people realize and have accepted that the nursing profession is a difficult job and it is founded on love.

Thank you for performing your duty. A community duty of compassion and your love for your fellow man through the great work you do.

I am so thankful for you, our nurses, and I ask myself what it is that is written in Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?"

To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." It is very clear what God requires of you, the nurses of American Samoa.

I am delighted to see our veteran nurses sit along side our younger and newer nurses. We have all gotten older and wiser. As senior nurses, you have grown with your job. I want you to know that your presence in your profession here in American Samoa can be compared to a totem pole and the markings that decorate it. The totem pole is found in many places in the Pacific and Polynesia and around the world in many cultures.

The markings are there on the totem pole only for remembering history and telling stories because these markings tell the unique history and stories of a people, of a culture, of traditions, and of a profession. And once you are aware of it, you realize they are not just markings. They are symbols. Symbols that share stories and teaches lessons and truths of a proud past. It's wonderful how these symbols on a totem pole tell stories of accomplishment.

To you our wonderful nurses of American Samoa, you are indeed a symbol of the wonderful stories of mercy and love and compassion. And for our island community, those symbols teach many lessons and tell wonderful stories about our history as a people and the health care that you happily provide day by day.

Thank you for performing your duty for your people and your country because it is your duty to God. I commend your strength, commitment and compassion. I thank all of your families for supporting you as you carry out your career in nursing.

I wish to say to the public, if you meet a nurse this week, give them a sei or an ula and say "I love you, Nurse!"

May God give you the strength to truly live a happy and fulfilled life. Thank you and God bless on your special week and always.

Soifua ma ia manuia."

## Notice of Intent to Adopt or Amend Rules

Pursuant to American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA) 4.1001 ct seq., the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) intends to adopt or amend its Board Bylaws, Loan Manual, Collection Manual and Personnel Manual. Interested members of the public may review these documents and/or present their written comments on the same at the DBAS CEO's office located at the DBAS Building at Pago Pago, American Samoa from May 8, 2006 until June 2, 2006. DBAS is normally open for business Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary Malauulu at telephone number (684)633-4031.



## ***Contestants Prepare for Miss ASCC Pageant***

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Four young women students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will compete for the role of the institution's new goodwill ambassador during the "2006-2007 Miss ASCC Pageant" which will take place on Saturday, May 13, at 7 p.m. in the college Auditorium. For this year's theme, the pageant organizers have chosen "A Tribute to the Contemporary Samoan Taupou," which current Miss ASCC Teumalo Langkilde describes as, "recognizing and celebrating how taupou traditions adapt to changing times while passed from generation to generation."

The contestants have four categories in which to demonstrate their talents. The first, the "Traditional Samoan" category, involves displaying tuiga and ie toga wear, performing an ava ceremony, and dancing a siva Samoa. Next, during the "Talent" category, each contestant has a wide-open field in which to showcase a particular talent of her choosing. The organizers have declined to specify what exactly will take place during this portion of the pageant in order to maintain the "surprise" element. During the following "Theme Category," each contestant will model an outfit created with the "Contemporary Taupou" in mind, and give a speech explaining the design. Modeling of original outfits will continue in the fourth category, the "Formal Puletasi," leading to the final round, the "Questions" category, during which each contestant spontaneously will give her best answer to a question determined by the judges.

Each contestant also chooses a particular "platform," or concept through which they feel they can accomplish a particular service for their peers. Contestant Jessica F. Afuola of Vatia, sponsored by Le Taupou Manaia Dance Productions, has selected the interesting platform of education through the performing arts. "I believe our island holds so much talent," says Jessica, 19, "and I'd like to promote this." Martial arts enthusiast Tiana Wai of Nu'uuli, sponsored by Video Plaza, wants to see an expansion of the college's Peer Mentor program. Tiana, 19, and herself a Peer Mentor at ASCC, believes that the peer tutoring aspect of the program can help more students improve academically.

Danielle Nafanua Jennings of Pavai'ai, sponsored by Marie's Sewing Shop, seeks to "emphasize 'community' in American Samoa Community College." Danielle, 21, says, "Our presence should be known through volunteer services in the community." Jubilee Fa'anoa Lafa'o of Lau'i'i, sponsored by Blue Fa'atasi Club, also supports an increase in tutoring, through the college's Student Support Services. Says Jubilee, 19, "I will try my best to help out and get involved with the Student Support Services program to provide tutoring sessions for the ASCC students."

Working with the pageant's hosts, the ASCC Student Government Association, current Miss ASCC Teumalo Langkilde has taken an active role in helping to organize this year's event. She describes the role of Miss ASCC as "an ambassador" who represents the college at various functions. "I learned a lot about responsibility," says Teumalo, "and I gained a greater understanding of my culture through tasks like making speeches and performing the ava ceremony." Teumalo plans to graduate this semester and enter the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the fall.

Admission for the Miss ASCC Pageant is \$5 for the general public, \$3 for children under 12, and \$2 for ASCC students with ID. For more information, call the college at 699-9155 during normal business hours and ask for Student Services at extension 376.



The four contestants in this year's Miss ASCC Pageant are (l-r) Danielle Jennings, Tiana Wai, Jubilee Lafao and Jessica Afuola

### **\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

The Telecommunications Regulatory Commissioner (TRC) advises that an application for designation as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" has been filed with the TRC by AST Telecom, LLC d/b/a Blue Sky and is under review.

The application states that Blue Sky (1) offers, or will offer, all of the services supported by the federal high-cost universal service program, either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services and (2) it advertises, or will advertise, the availability of such services and the charges using media of general circulation.

The application may be reviewed in its entirety at the Office of the Governor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Executive Office Building, Utulei, American Samoa, during normal working hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Office of the Governor through May 12, 2006.

**TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO**  
Telecommunications Regulatory  
Commissioner

**ASG RADIO  
PROGRAM**

*with:* Governor Togiola

**Saturdays @ 7a.m.**

*on:* Showers of Blessings-  
FM 104.7

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